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PULPIT AND ROSTRUM.

Sermons, Orations, Popular Lectures, &c.,

PHONOGRAPHICALLY REPORTED BY ANDREW J. GRAHAM AND CHARLES B. COLLAR.

TRAVEL,

ITS PLEASURES, ADVANTAGES, AND REQUIREMENTS :

A LECTURE

BY

J. H. SIDDONS, *pseudonym.*

for Joachim Hayward Stowguber

Delivered at Clinton Hall, New York, February, 1860.

2

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countrymen. The moderns, availing themselves of the increased means of locomotion, have manifested a passion for travel in a still greater degree, and it is now difficult to point to a single spot on the face of the globe on which the stranger has not left his foot-prints. Curiosity will not be satisfied with mere report. Books are but guides to the language of men, for, however honestly they may be written, the human mind is so singularly constituted that very few persons see the same object in the same light or from the same point of view. Thus, in contemplating the world through the medium of books only, we seem to behold it with the colored spectacles of other men, and our impressions are consequently too often erroneous.

But although the passion for foreign travel is unquestionably great among all civilized people, two things are generally wanting to render it as profitable as it might be made—namely, a definite purpose and adequate preparation. Three or four hundred years ago, before Venice and Genoa had been robbed of their political and commercial importance by the discovery of the route to the East Indies round the Cape of Good Hope, the steps of the adventurous tourist seldom extended beyond the continent of Europe; and the result of his journeying into “foreign parts” was the importation of frivolous manners and exotic morals. In Shakespeare’s comedy of “*As You Like It*,” Rosalind says to Jacques: “Fare you well, Monsieur Traveler. Look you lisp and wear strange suits—disable all the benefits of your nativity, and almost chide Heaven for giving you the face you have—or I shall never think you have swam in a gondola!”

To make amends for the small amount of solid infor-

mation brought home by themselves, the travelers of that time were prone to exaggeration and invention, and "travelers' tales" came to be synonymous with falsehood. Othello's own account of the stories he was wont to pour into Desdemona's ears regarding the Anthropophagi, and "men whose heads do grow beneath their shoulders," seems to justify Iago's insinuation that he bragged and told "fantastical lies;" and the description of the crocodile in "Antony and Cleopatra" appears but a satire on the evasions of ignorance. The man had returned from Egypt without seeing such an animal on the banks of the Nile, but was fain to reply to his interlocutor as if he *had* seen it.

That the books contained but little that was either novel or interesting, arose from the ignorance of the tourists of the language, the literature, and the history of the countries in which they moved. A striking example of this occurred in the case of Addison, the illustrious poet and essayist. His narrative of travels in Italy is singularly barren. Lord Macaulay says of it, "Though rich in extracts from the Latin poets, it contains scarcely any references to the Latin orators and historians. We must add that it contains little or no information respecting the history and literature of modern Italy. Addison does not mention Dante, Petrarch, Boccaccio, Boiardo, Berni, Lorenzo de Medici, or Machiavelli. At Ferrara he saw the tomb of Ariosto, and at Venice heard the gondoliers sing verses of Tasso. But he has not a word to say of the illustrious dead of Santa Croce. He crosses the wood of Ravenna without recollecting the Spectre Huntsman, and wanders up and down Rimini without one thought of Francesca. At Paris he eagerly sought an introduction to

Boileau, but he seems not to have been at all aware that at Florence he was in the vicinity of a poet with whom Boileau could not sustain a comparison—of the greatest lyric poet of modern times, Vincenzo Filicaja."

Ferdinand Mendez de Pinto took extraordinary liberties with fact (as subsequently ascertained), and from Herodotus, who was derisively called "the father of lies," down to Bruce, the Abyssinian traveler, all tourists and enterprising explorers of countries then strange to Europe, were included in the category of doubtful reporters. As intercourse and discovery augmented, however, truth became more general, because falsehood was susceptible of immediate exposure. The moment a new mine had been discovered—a new track opened—hundreds ventured upon it, and each confirmed or refuted the statements of his predecessors. It was deemed less trouble to go over beaten ground than to open up new routes, and in the higher circles of European society travel became a necessity with those who could not afford that their cotemporaries should see more than themselves. But those necessary trips, which, from their uniformity of character and the limited space they embraced, came to be called "the grand tour," seldom eventuated in anything beyond making coxcombs of the tourists. They learned to mince their gait, to lounge and shuffle, to drawl in their conversation and to interlard it with French and Italian scraps; they could talk of the usages and ceremonials of courts, the peculiar flavor of dishes with incomprehensible names, and perhaps would stand sponsors to a new dance, or a new passage of arms in fencing—and nothing more. Yet some of these gentry regarded their trashy experiences as of so much mo-

ment to society at large that they absolutely committed them to print, and volumes of tours, illustrated with daubed (miscalled colored) plates, soon encumbered the bookseller's shelves. Hundreds of "Tours," more meagre even than Addison's, were published during the last and at the commencement of the present century, until their number and quality provoked the pen of the satirist and caricaturist. "Dr. Syntax in Search of the Picturesque," was, perhaps, one of the cleverest of these hits at the prevailing mania. The doctor was a curate and schoolmaster, so poor that he spoiled the child in order to spare the costly rod. Wishing to increase the range of family comfort and gratify his wife's desire for a new dress, he pondered the means. At length an idea suggested itself to his mind.

"I'll make a tour—and then I'll write it!"

Addressing his smiling spouse, he said :

"You well know what my pen can do,
 I'll try it with my pencil too.
 I'll prose it here, and verse it there,
 And picturesque it everywhere.
 I'll ride and write, and sketch and print,
 And thus create a real mint!
 At Dr. G. pray take a look,
 He made his fortune by a book,
 And if the one I make don't beat it,
 Why, take my word, I'll fry and eat it.
 ° ° ° ° °
 Could Dr. P. in chariot ride,
 And take each day his wine beside,
 If he did not contrive to cook
 Each year his tour into a book?
 E'en such a book will I now make,
 And I'm quite sure that it will take."

The mania for publishing tours subsided after the scourge of the satirist had been pretty widely distrib-

uted; but the rage for travel increased; for now the olive-branch, too long a stranger to Europe and to America, waved over both hemispheres, and intercommunication became almost universal, augmenting with every new invention for facilitating locomotion. At this day, all persons travel who can afford to do so. Still, the grand secret of travel is but partially known; the *art* of traveling to a purpose is very imperfectly developed. The desire to go "somewhere," at certain seasons, afflicts a very large proportion of the communities on either side of the Atlantic, and when the destination has been fixed upon, it is idly surmised that nothing further is necessary than to pack up trunks and carpet-bags, fill a purse with money, procure a passport, engage a passage, and depart. Vain notion! It is thus that time is uselessly consumed and money unprofitably spent. What would be thought of the general of an army who should limit his preparations for a campaign to the equipment of his troops, or of the admiral of a fleet who should deem the success of his expedition assured by the simple enlistment of his crew, the embarkation of his stores, guns, and ammunition? No government in its senses would trust men who could not bring to their task an intimate acquaintance with geography, topography, the science of war in all its ramifications, a familiarity with languages, and a variety of other qualifications either possessed by themselves or the officers who should accompany them. In like manner, no persons can hope to travel to advantage unless they have furnished their minds with knowledge as completely as they have stuffed their portmanteaus with articles of personal decoration.

We are very apt to believe that the ponderous

"hand-books" which Mr. John Murray, of London, has published of late years, are all-sufficient for the attainment of the true ends of travel in Europe and India. It would be absurd to deny that a great deal is to be learned from these compilations; but, on the other hand, it would be equally absurd not to affirm that they are exceedingly perplexing to a traveler, whose time is limited, by the quantity and variety of their contents. They are absolutely plethoric in their riches. A man who should find himself at the junction of six cross roads, each directing him different ways to attain the same point, would not be more perplexed than he who should depend upon these affluent guide-books for faithful government. Brevity and comprehensiveness are all that are needed in a work of this kind, and that is the most valuable guide which shall teach the tourist how he may profitably see the world with the smallest expenditure of time and money.

The first requisites for travel in the Old World are a passport, an adequate supply of coin, a few hints regarding costume and letters of introduction, and a *carte du pays*, comprehending definite information relative to points of attraction, hotels, railway charges, places of entertainment and instruction, peculiarity of usages, etc.; in fact, as much as, and no more than, may be studied and almost got by heart on the voyage across the Atlantic. Similar information is requisite for the European traveler who should direct his attention to the United States and South America. There is a prodigious amount of ignorance on both sides of the ocean which separates the two hemispheres; and ignorance, we know, is the parent of prejudice, one of

the worst traveling companions a gentleman or lady could possibly have. All should enter, as far as possible, upon a voyage or journey, with a resolution to cast away every preconceived bias of an unfavorable character, and to judge for themselves of the nations they visit for the first time. And one of the most certain methods of rubbing off the crust of prejudice is to enter fully into conversation with fellow-travelers. Reserve and taciturnity, whether originating in pride, modesty, timidity, or excess of caution, are fatal to an accumulation of accurate and extensive knowledge, and often deprive the traveler of the opportunity of making pleasant acquaintances. On the other hand, too much freedom and volubility are only productive of the acquisition and communication of superficial knowledge. A discreet mind will know how to draw the distinction; but it will be better, as a rule, to err on the side of freedom and familiarity than to learn nothing by preserving a starched and cold demeanor.

It is the almost invariable practice with the new arrival in any great town in Europe, to put himself in the hands of a *commissionnaire* or *valet de place*, to show him everything and manage his affairs during his stay. This should be avoided, if possible, and there is no reason why it should not always be avoided. The expense of having such an article as a vulgar, ignorant, and obtrusive lackey tied to you and your wife (if you have one) is very considerable, and if he is intrusted to make purchases or pay bills for you, the chances are that you will be plundered considerably. But this is not the worst feature of a traveler's dependence on such a person. He is pretty sure to carry you only just where

he pleases, and to tell you so much as suits his convenience. If you are desirous of visiting a place of which some account has been given by a friend, or in some work you have read, it is not improbable that the *valet* will immediately attempt to depreciate the place and deny the authenticity of the description, unless, indeed, he is inclined to accompany you and expects to profit by the transaction. Equally distrustful and inconvenient with these persons are the guides, or *ciceroni*, attached to certain palaces and other public places of attraction. They either gabble on with their rote description, or are morosely silent until asked questions, when they give the briefest replies in broken English or broken French, neither of which is very intelligible to the hearer. In Great Britain, of course, you get tolerably pure English from those people, but they are not free from the vice of telling their story rapidly—it is the same tale to everybody, delivered in the tone of an individual who is heartily sick of repeating the same thing a dozen times a day for months together. Interrupt any one of them with a proper question, and the thread of the story is broken—the question only answered with, “I don’t know,” and then the narrative is *recommenced*, that the narrator may get back with safety to the place whence he or she departed. I remember visiting Melrose Abbey, in Scotland, celebrated in Walter Scott’s beautiful poem, “The Lay of the Last Minstrel.” As the guide was deliberately telling the story of the visit of William of Deloraine and the monk to the tomb of Michael Scott, the Wizard, I ventured to interrupt him with some remarks on the apocryphal character of the tale, upon which he turned round upon me and fiercely exclaimed, “It’s a’

true, *for* it is written in Walter Scott's buik!" It was some time before he could recover his temper and the course of his narrative; and when all was over I pointed to a pile of stones, among which was a carved head of the Saviour. "That," said he, "is a head of Jupiter, found here among the ruins!" "Nonsense," I irreverently replied; "Jupiter was a heathen god, and the monks would never have had *his* image here." "And what for no?" rejoined my irascible guide. "Were not a' the monks heathens? Isn't their religion heathenish?" There was no battling with so obstinate a zealot, so I held my peace. At Abbotsford there are old guides, pensioners of the Scott family, who are as deaf as posts, and to half the questions put to them by inquiring and curious visitors, reply, "I dinna ken—I never heard." What satisfaction can result from such guidance? It is as bad in France. If the description of the contents of the Gallery of Versailles be not read before a person goes to that glorious place of art, he will come away as wise as he went, for all he may get from the chaperon.

The requisites for travel beyond the beaten track are very much greater than any that are enumerated as indispensable to the ordinary tourist of Europe. He who desires to extend his journeyings to "stronds afar remote," and to render service to science in general, and his own country in particular, while benefiting the interests of the lands he may visit, would do well to pursue a course of diligent study before he ventures on his pilgrimage, and to become the master of certain branches of knowledge which are not comprehended in an ordinary school education. An intimacy with history, sacred and profane, and with its fellow science

geography, and especially physical geography, prepares the traveler to select his routes, and to enjoy in the retrospect of the mighty past, as well as the contemplation of the present, all the features of the locality in which he may find himself. An acquaintance with medicine and surgery, with geology, mineralogy, and botany; a familiarity with astronomy, the science of surveying, ethnology, and the art of war, may all be turned to excellent account. No one when he ventures beyond the pale of civilized society and finds himself in lands but little explored, can possibly foresee the circumstances in which he may be placed and the opportunities he may enjoy of being of value to himself, his own country, and his host, for the time being. Let a few examples demonstrate the force of this remark.

The English are masters of the whole extent of Hindostan, embracing a territory 1,500 miles in length, and the same distance in breadth, containing a population of 180 millions of souls. How did they first obtain a footing on the shores of the Ganges? Simply through the aid which a skillful surgeon, named Boughton, afforded, at the desire of the "Great Mogul," to one of the ladies of the zenana. He was asked to name his recompense, and, following the dictates of the trading spirit of the time, he desired that his countrymen might be allowed to establish a factory on the river's banks. The royal permission was at once accorded, and Calcutta—now the metropolis of the largest empire in the world—arose out of that small settlement. In like manner, Sir John Macneil, when surgeon to the British mission at Tabreez, in Persia, gave his professional assistance to one of the wives of the

Shah-in-Shah (King of Kings), and interesting political results ensued. These facts establish the great importance of a medical education to the foreign traveler. I might add, that a very imperfect acquaintance with the nature of the drugs contained in my own small medicine-chest, enabled me to travel with safety in the wildest parts of southern Persia and Turkey. The *hakeem* (or doctor) is always held in great respect among a people much suffering from the diseases incident to filth, poverty, and a warm climate, and dependent entirely upon the empiricism of "cullers of simples" and medicine-men.

As an illustration of the importance of a knowledge of geology, let us glance at the state of Australia, and its bearing upon the interests of Europe and America. The gold discoveries in California attracted, as we know, thousands of bold and enterprising men of all classes, ages, and degrees to seek their fortunes at the diggings. Among the adventurers was a Mr. Hargraves; he did not find nuggets of gold or gold in grains to an extent to satisfy his hopes, but he found a quality and form of land corresponding with the nature and configuration of a part of the Australian territory which he had previously visited. Reasoning from analogy, he returned to Sydney, and thence hastening into the interior, he found his geological conjectures verified. There was gold in abundance on the hills and the rivers. He went back to Sydney and made his report to the government. The news of the discovery fled like wildfire, and we know the stupendous issue. The scenes enacted at California were renewed in the South Pacific; the extraneous population of Europe found its way to Australia, and rapidly created a vast colony,

which has become a great consumer of the produce and manufactures of the Old and the New World.

The value of an acquaintance with botany was illustrated first by Mungo Park, the African traveler; then by Sir W. O'Shaughnessy, who enriched the pharmacopœia of the East India government by his discoveries of the medicinal properties of the plants of Asia; and now by Dr. Livingstone, who has elicited the fact that cotton may be grown in Eastern Africa to an almost indefinite extent. The importance of this last fact can be realized by those who reflect that almost every being in the known world wears clothes manufactured from cotton, and that even the prolific yieldings of the United States and the cotton cultivation carried on in India are far from sufficient for the ever-craving looms and shuttles of the great localities of manufacture.

Do we need to cite examples of the consequences to the peace of the world and the check to aggression of a personal intimacy with the art of war? They are supplied by the gallant conduct of Lieutenant Pottinger at Herat, and Captains Butler and Nasmyth at Silistria. Herat is termed the key to India, because it lies on the high road to the vast country between Persia and Afghanistan. In 1838 the Persians, at the instigation of Russia, laid siege to the town, and it would have fallen, and thus opened the way for the advance of a Russian army toward the north of India, if Lieutenant Pottinger had not, while traveling in Scinde, become aware of the state of the fortifications of Herat, and hastened thither with the offer of his services to place the city in a proper state of defense. His assistance was immediately accepted, and the Persians found it necessary to raise the siege and retire. In like man-

ner, when, in 1854, the Russian army had advanced to the banks of the Danube on its way to attack Constantinople, Captains Butler and Nasmyth, who were traveling from India to England overland, threw themselves into Silistria, and by raising strong out-works and directing the defensive operations, compelled the Russians to retrograde.

But a more striking and enduring illustration of the value of adequate preparation for foreign travel is presented in the instance of Mr. Rich, Mr. Botta, and Mr. Layard. Deeply read in biblical lore, those gentlemen had become impressed with the conviction that the mounds of earth which are scattered at intervals along the banks of the Tigris and the Euphrates, covered the remains of the mighty cities of Babylon and Nineveh. It might be, thought they, that the material of which the vast temples and palaces were composed had survived the assaults of time and the destructive properties of the damp earth and its geological changes—it might be, indeed, that exclusion from the air had preserved some huge remnants of stone or marble with all their characteristic features. It was with difficulty they attempted to open up the soil hallowed by sacred history. The jealousy of Arab and of Turk presented an obstacle to excavations which, in their ignorance, seemed to have no other aim in view than the exhumation of concealed wealth. But reason and remonstrance ultimately triumphed, and the Sultan of Constantinople gave permission to M. Botta, the Italian consul at Bagdad, and Mr. Layard, to dig into the earth and extract the buried treasures. Of amazing significance has been the result. Stupendous remains of the idol worship of the ancient Assyrian, covered

with inscriptions in a character which the learning and research of Sir Henry Rawlinson has deciphered, soon demonstrated that memorials had been discovered, undeniable in their authenticity, of the histories of Sennacherib, Semiramis, and Nebuchadnezzar. The truth of Scripture had thus been established beyond the cavil of the infidel or the doubts of the skeptic; and inasmuch as the Old Testament bears upon and predicts the events related in the New Testament, Christianity achieved a striking triumph. And this came about through the accomplished minds and well-directed researches of European travelers.

Many more instances might be adduced of the unspeakable value of adequate preparation. I could relate how General Chesney, an able surveyor, has rendered us familiar with the quality of every inch of land and the depths of every channel of water lying between the Mediterranean Sea (its northern, southern, and eastern shores) and the river Tigris, including the Nile and the Euphrates. He traveled, disguised as a poor Turk, and encountered many perils; but when I met him surveying the Euphrates, under great difficulties, he was cheerful, confident, and indifferent to danger. He was never without his Bible—at once a consolation and a historical guide. Further, I could speak of the intrepid and philanthropic James Brooke, who, though reveling in the luxury of a large inheritance, put aside all the tranquil pleasures of home, and went forth in his own yacht to sow the seeds of Christianity and civilization in Borneo. He surveyed the coasts, discovered coves and inlets, estuaries and rivers, unknown to previous navigators; he acquired the love and confidence of the people, ascertained the existence of val-

uable minerals which are now articles of commerce, introduced the industrial arts, abolished piracy, paved the way for the peaceful missions, and obtained great advantages for his government. To him all luxuries were for a time unknown; even the necessities of life were sometimes wanting. He worked like a common laborer, and fought like a common soldier, with less wages than either. He was cut off from all communication with civilized society, endured obloquy, and endangered his life, yet the desire to do good sustained him, and a grateful nation has endeavored to indemnify him for his prodigious sacrifices. No traveler ever traveled to a nobler purpose than Rajah Sir James Brooke.

To pass from these specific instances, and return to the subject of the needful preparation for a traveler, let me suggest that less reliance be placed on a familiarity with the French language than on an acquaintance with Latin. It is of little use that French has been learned at an English or American school, and frequently read. Nothing but continual conversation with French people can give an individual the proper accent, the proper idiom, the requisite "*façon de parler*." And even after you have stepped beyond the mere philological boundary, and can both understand others and make yourself understood, how entirely you will be at a loss, on entering a French restaurant, and attempting to unravel the mysteries of the bill of fare! The *garçon* (waiter), presuming that you are familiar with the nomenclature given to every French dish, offers you the *carte*, but it only has the effect of perplexing you beyond all measure. What would you understand from "*Potage à la Jules Cæsar*," even with the aid of the translation complacently juxtaposed with

the French title, "Soup to the Julius Cæsar?" Hamlet says:

"Imperial Cæsar, dead, and turned to clay,
May stop a hole to keep the wind away;"

but it is not on record that any part of great Julius was preserved to make indefinite quantities of soup for the benefit of posterity. Quite as unintelligible is "*Poulet à la Marengo*," and "*Pommes de terre à la maître-d'hôtel*." We know the meaning of the words, but what deduction can be safely made as to the quality of the dish you may order? Let no one trust to his familiarity with the French language for any means of interpreting a *carte*, or following the actors in a vaudeville.

French is undoubtedly useful in the towns of Italy, and Germany, or Switzerland, simply because the upper classes sometimes speak the language, and interpreters are always to be found among the *valets de place*, waiters, and clerks at railway offices; but *Latin* offers a means of communication all over the world. Go where you will, you can not fail to meet with the missionary, or the priest, or the doctor of medicine, who have had more or less of a classical education. In Bulgaria, Wallachia, and Moldavia, the common people speak Latin. They are the descendants of the Dacians, and are proud of their ancient connection with Rome. In Russia and Germany much Latin is known. During the Crimean war, the prisoners on either side who could not speak French, or English, or Russian, found an unfailing resource in their classical attainment.

To return to the subject of book-making. In an age when everybody in America and Germany, and many

millions in England and France, read all that is published in the shape of a book of travels, it behooves the author to observe an exactitude in relation to facts, and a tone of justice and impartiality in the utterance of opinions, which were scarcely expected or desired when the world was little known and superficiality passed current. Yet we still find works issuing from the press on both sides of the Channel which are a positive disgrace to the writers and the countries of which they are natives. Men and women write too much in a hurry, and too often give way to first or last impressions. Matters of personal inconvenience or annoyance, to which every traveler must be more or less subject, are permitted to color their general representations or to shake their earlier convictions. Rather than appear ignorant of anything in relation to the country which they have visited, they prefer to give the loosest, flimsiest, and most superficial descriptions of important institutions. A case in point occurs to me. A lively Frenchman visited India some thirty years since. His avowed purpose was to "write a book," but his time was limited. His opportunities were considerable, but the charms of European society drew him away from an investigation into native usages. He depended thus on hearsay, and accepted every prejudice as an undeniable truth. He had rushed through the land as fast, at least, as a palanquin could carry him, from Cape Comorin to the Himalayas, and back again to Calcutta, where he was to embark for France. Looking over his memoranda, a few days prior to his departure, he found that he had taken no notes of the revenue system of the government, without which he believed his book would be

very imperfect. He spoke to an English friend, a distinguished lawyer, on the subject, and this friend undertook to invite the Secretary to Government in the Revenue Department to meet the French tourist, "and thus," said he, "you will have an opportunity of gathering some information of value." The dinner came off. The Frenchman made himself very agreeable to the ladies, did full justice to the wines, fruits, and viands, and talked on *general* subjects with the venerable and accomplished secretary; but not a word did he say about the revenues of India until the cloth was removed, the dessert finished, and the party about to break up, when he exclaimed, "Ah, Monsieur M——, I wish to ask you to give me, *in five minutes*, a description of your fiscal system, that I may mention it in my book." "My dear sir," replied the Secretary—a hard, precise Scotchman, and a bit of a sly humorist—"I have been trying for the last twenty-five years to understand it, and I am still in the dark! How, then, can I make you comprehend it?" The French traveler accepting, or pretending to accept it as a truth, stated in his book, afterward published in both languages, that the Revenue System of India was so complicated that nobody could make head or tail of the way in which the money was collected or spent; and this was his apology for passing over a most interesting and important branch of inquiry!

It is in this way that books are written by scampering tourists. If they were less pretentious, readers would not pin their faith to them. If, like the "Bubbles," "Rides," and "Rambles," they were the merest surface sketches, enriched by the wit and originality of the traveler, they would be taken *valeat quantum*;

but when they profess to be the careful result of observation, after a residence or prolonged stay in the part of the world described, they ought to be free from all misguiding statements and violent prejudices.

But, indeed, the composition of a book professing to describe a country or countries minutely, is a task not to be accomplished with facility. It demands in the author superior faculties of observation and a high degree of previous cultivation; the means to live independently, and to obtain knowledge on all points of interest, and the art of communicating his accumulated information clearly and graphically; the power of analyzing, generalizing, criticising, comparing; the skill to determine how far a people is formed by its government, or the government and the public institutions form the character of the people—however essential to the author who shall profess to furnish mere statistics—are insufficient to make a pleasing and instructive book of travels: they are but the raw material out of which philosophy must fabricate results. A better proof of the exceeding difficulty of producing a work of this kind can not be afforded than in the circumstance of there being no work in England which affords full and correct information respecting the nearest capital town in Europe. “A comprehensive and thoroughly informing work on Paris,” says the very last number of the *Westminster Review*, “is yet a desideratum in English literature.” Can it be a matter of wonder, then, if so much ignorance prevails respecting a city to which every one who can manage it resorts, that neither London nor New York have yet been accurately described?

But though complete works of this nature are very rare, it does not follow that they are impossible. On

the contrary ; all the conditions implied, of time, money, opportunity, and personal qualification, they may be written greatly to the profit of author, publisher, and reader. A few words on the nature of the inquiries which a person undertaking such a work should set on foot, may be of use.

The first point to which attention should be directed, is the geographical position of a country. But if existing maps are to be relied upon, that part of the subject is soon dismissed. Not so easy is it to describe the physical geography of a state. It is essential to learn something of boundaries, distinguishing the conventional and political from the natural ; to show the difference between maritime and inland provinces and back settlements ; the quality of soils ; the climate and temperature ; the nature and extent of the productions of nature, vegetable, animal, and mineral ; the courses of rivers—their affluents and tributaries ; the property of the water, and the navigable extent of streams. To describe all these matters, a peculiar vocabulary is essential, and the traveler should thoroughly understand and properly apply the scientific technicalities. In describing rivers, their course and peculiarities, it should not be forgotten that a knowledge of their fords is important ; their occasional inundations ; their *bores*, called *mascarets* in France, *pororocra* among the Indians in America, *bar* in Asiatic Turkey, and *bora* in India. The meteorology of a country is to be considered in connection with the climate, the one bearing essentially upon another. This science and that of geology have likewise vocabularies of their own, which the traveler must master. Mines and metallurgy, and volcanic eruptions and deposits, are all comprehended in geology.

The vegetable productions of a country are the next details of physical geography which come under review, and these will have to be considered in connection with agricultural industry ; indeed, they are inseparable. Then there are the animal productions, which are classified under two heads : animals considered as objects of natural history, and animals statistically regarded as constituting the animal riches of a country. By the animal riches, are meant not only the animals which by their labor contribute to the wealth and comfort of man, but those which form part of his food, or are convertible to purposes of commerce. From these the traveler passes to an investigation of the condition and extent of the population. He should learn its numerical extent, separating men from women—adults from children ; the annual number of births, deaths, and marriages ; the relative mortality of town and country. The inquiry then proceeds to embrace the manners, customs, morals, and habits of the people ; their physical constitution, and their language. The principal objects of inquiry in respect to language are their phonology (or sounds), etymology, and *ideology*, or grammatical form and idiomatic structure ; the character of the written language distinguishing the phonetic from the hieroglyphic. The dress and food of a people constitute an important item of inquiry. The dress often determines the nature of the occupation. The wardrobe of a Turk would not bespeak the huntsman, nor would the costume of the man who lives by active occupation suit the sedentary habits of the student, clerk, or handicraft artisan. The food of a population—seeing that the organic structure of man is the same all over the world—is determined less by taste

than situation and superstition. Many live entirely on fish; millions confine themselves to vegetables and farinaceous diet; the majority are carnivorous. Observations on these points confirm the results of the inquiries into physical geography. Where meat is good and abundant, be sure the pasturage is rich; where it is little eaten, rely upon it the herbage is scant, or religion has taught that it is sinful to partake of animal food. The wisdom of the founders of some faiths connected the health and necessities of their disciples with their religious duties. Thus, because pork was imperfectly fed in the East, the Mosaic and Mohammedan laws denounced the pig as unclean; and because beef was unwholesome and hard of digestion in India, the Brahmins wisely pronounced the cow and the bull sacred animals, whose flesh it would be sacrilege and profanity to touch!

The traveler's inquiries in a city can not be too extensively pursued. It is of much interest to know a great deal of the quality of the habitations of men in respect to external architecture and internal convenience; the style of ventilation and method of producing warmth; the drainage and sewerage; the escape of smoke; the manner of lighting and watering streets; the peculiar form and expense of municipal government; the nature of the police; the manufactures, shops, or stores; the courts of law; the vehicular conveyances; the cost of existence; the state of education; the state of religion; the number of churches and chapels; the amount of political freedom enjoyed; the number and quality of the newspapers; the style of literature and the arts generally; the post-office management; the extent to which machinery is employed; the amuse-

ments of a people and their peculiar tastes, are all deserving of minute inquiry. Last, not least, the traveler should make himself well acquainted with the form of government, the extent of the naval and military forces, their organization and education, and their practical familiarity with the art of war.

One word more, and I have done. Travel lightly equipped wherever you may go. Carry as much gold with you as you safely can, for notes and silver coin have not a value beyond the territory in which they have been fabricated and stamped, and bills of exchange are not always negotiable. The auriferous commodity has a value everywhere. Be always provided with a lancet and a small pocket compass ; a small telescope or barometer glasses ; a lens, wherewith to obtain fire upon an emergency ; a knife, a corkscrew, a gimlet, a pair of scissors, needles and thread, and a revolver. All these are useful beyond the limits of civilization. Many are of value even within those limits. Get up a few ideas on the subject of cooking, and do not scorn taxidermy. Learn to be temperate and self-denying. Keep your temper on all occasions, however great the provocation may sometimes be. Prepare for much fatigue and severe privation. Arm yourself with patience, and, above all things, place trust in the goodness of Providence, who never deserts the brave and the virtuous in their extremity.

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Frock Coats -	2	38	16	35	Chemise -	1	10 31
Satin Vests -	1	14	7	19	Moreen Skirt -	35	7 23
Linen " -		48	5	14	Muslin " -	30	6 1
Cloth Pants -		51	5	10	Night Dress -	1	10 2
Summer " -		38	2	50	Drawers -	28	5 6
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